

Pain Of Divorce



At KC83

by Jamie Johnson

KC-83 was a tremendous experience, an experience I will never forget simply because of all I learned, the visions I saw and the convictions Christ left with me while I was there. There is no doubt that *The Time is Now*. No longer can we Christians wait. The darkness in the world is great; we must look to God and let our lights shine.

God used every speaker there in some way to speak to all of our hearts. The week spent in KC was the greatest learning experience I have had yet.

Going back to speakers, God used Howard Hendricks to speak to my heart more than any other speaker. He said it like the Word says it, "God will be faithful to you if you are willing to be faithful to him." Our attitudes should be good, we must be obedient and then committed, thus allowing the Holy Spirit to do wondrous things.

Therefore when we confess every sin and study the Word daily we are being faithful, obedient and committed. We should be more concerned about responsibilities and the world supplies reputation. I think we

should be concerned about God's responsibilities He has given us. As Howard Hendricks said, "We should be more sensitive to what God thinks than what man thinks."

While in KC we had a motto which to me said that no matter how tough, if we are faithful to God, He will pull us through. The motto is this, "You can't make it tough enough for me to complain."

Now that I am back at Montreat my goals are before me. God gave me a vision and that vision was that here at Montreat we can have our own KC-83. We can have Montreat '84, God is here at Montreat just like He was at KC. This semester and year can be the best ever for Montreat-Anderson College and it will be if we will be faithful.

Please be obedient, committed and faithful to God and God will be faithful to you in return. Believe me God is real in my life and I thank God for sending Jesus Christ to die for me. If you don't know Jesus personally please ask someone, even ask me. I would love to share what Jesus has for you.

My parents divorced when I was in the first grade. As a first grader, I could hardly understand why my parents fought and argued. The reasons behind my parent's divorce are still not totally clear to me, but I know enough of the divorce to make me cringe when I think of it and the anguish it has caused.

I had a hard time understanding why my father was unhappy, and why he was leaving — now I know. My father had an affair with my mother's so called "best-friend." Of course, my mother could not tell my brother and me that dad was sleeping with another woman, we would not understand. We were told that daddy would be leaving and not coming back. An absolute void was left in my life. No one can imagine the feelings of rejection, guilt, and pain that I have experienced as a child from a broken home.

When my parents first got the divorce, I had a fear of being rejected. I already felt that my father rejected me, and I was not sure about my mother's feelings. The reason I was scared that my mother would also leave was because of the aftermath of a fight my parents had. Dad had come over to pick up some of his belongings, leaving with my brother — "his" son. Mother was hysterical. I remember standing on the porch while she was screaming at dad. The next thing I knew, mom had slammed and locked the door, with me still standing outside. Dishes started crashing against the door, and tears started rolling down my face. There I was, a six year old child, alone with no one to turn to. I thought the

dishes were being thrown at me, not as a symbol of my mother's anger towards my father. It took a while to regain my confidence in adults: all adults, even my mother. I had to get over the fear of being left by my mother; and my mother had a very hard task persuading two young, impressionable children that she too was not going to leave them.

Some fights left me with feelings of rejection, but others left me with feelings of guilt. I do not remember all the fights, but one vividly stays in my mind. One night my brother and I heard a great deal of screaming. Mom and dad were arguing, and dad hit mom. Because of the force of the blow, mom fell and hit her head on the stereo. I do not remember my immediate reaction, but my immediate thoughts blamed the argument on my brother and me. I could not help but think that if my brother and I were not here, mom and dad would not be fighting. I experienced a great deal of guilt during the early years of the divorce. I was quite fortunate because my mother made it clear to me that the divorce was not caused by my brother and me, but because of my parents. So much love was exemplified toward my brother and me, that all feelings of guilt slowly disappeared.

Though I experienced a great deal of pain during the early years of the divorce, I am still not free from it all. Like all families, mine had to readjust after the divorce. The readjustment stage itself was a pain. The anxiety of explaining what happened, and the rebuilding of my family were the two hardest experiences to get through. Now, I feel the pains of

choosing the parent to live with, who to spend holidays with, and where the money will come from. These may seem like small worries to most, but a great deal of hard feelings are caused when children have to choose parents — I know, I had and still have to choose.

The financial situation is the hardest pain to understand and deal with. Living in a single parent home with no child support is difficult when two children are in college. I live very comfortably, but my mother always feels she does not ever "do enough."

I have accepted my family situation, and made the best of it I possibly could. I only wish others could accept the situation as easily as I do. Sure, people are going to feel "sorry" for me, but do not pity me, or any child from a broken home. Admire our courage and strength to carry on. I realize that all children do not ever grow to accept their situation, but most do. Children from broken homes are just as normal as children from "real" families, and we should be treated as normal kids.

There was a purpose for my parent's divorce. Even though I experienced a great deal of heartache during the divorce, I have benefited from it in many ways. I had to grow up fast due to my parent's divorce, and God watched me the whole way. Because of the divorce, I gained a best friend — my mother. The divorce has brought my mother and me extremely close. I sometimes wonder if we would be as close if my parents were still married. My parents are divorced though, they have been for almost thirteen years. Frankly, I can not imagine it any other way.



in my Father's house...

in my Father's house...
tears are shed

and dried

prayers are whispered

and answered

joy is felt

and expressed

sins are confessed

and forgiven

love is shared

and received

...in my Father's house.

— Sharon Kimberly Howell